Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
2/13/74

Dear Mr. Elfin,

When you were kind enough to see me that busy day months ago you asked me for a couple of headlines. I gave you samples. Neither you nor anyone else has written any one of them in the intervening months.

You also told me that your investigative reporter would be in touch with me that night. As you know, he was not and from it I took the same reading I have been making for years.

I spent about a year trying to give good Watergate stories away before deciding to write an overlarge book - without even approaching a publisher. The hangups on me are such that it is a waste of time to make the effort without a completed manuscript. There will be little prospect when I have the work done but at least I will have made another historical record.

With this investment I can't now think of giving this work away. The conditions imposed upon us by the work I have done for the past decade also preclude it. But it was not until I saw you that I also sought any assistance. If you recall our conversation, I did not ask for pay. I asked instead that the continuation of my work be made possible for all the work I have done and all I will yet do. And when I spoke to you I amde a similar approach to an organization making loud noises about Watergate and impeachment, not media and with every reason to know my work of the late 1930s.

The reporting on Watergate as straight reporting has been excellent. It has not been what when I did it was called investigative reporting. It is leak reporting. Because there has been no real investigating the major stories have not been dug out. In fact if the most elementary investigating had <u>ever</u> been done only monumental incompetence or incredible dishonesty would have kept what I have developed from coming out. Rather than bragging about what I have done I am saying that others have failed to do what is essentially a simple thing. If I could do as much as I have with no income and so broke I can hardly afford to leave home and can't afford any long-distance phone calls I <u>know</u> what those with resources could have done.

There is nothing I can do about the hanups people have about me or the work I have done. It is my belief that media failings in reporting the political assassinations are the real cause of this.

Of course what is happening and what is not happening troubles me. I remember the Hitler era clearly.

From the impression I formed of you on an Agronsky & Co. show I am disappointed that you did not see if I have what I claim to have.

What prompts this letter is leaking that points at one of the headlines I gave you. It is not completely accurate but basically it is. If this is elliptical, I can't afford to give it any other way or in more detail.

And I'll add another. I believe that a major part of the unreported is in your own building. Is that close enough for you to look at?

Experience tells me to expect nothing but for whatever it may be worth to you I report that two colleges are interested in my work for permanent archives. It thus may serve scholars of the future. My interest is more in the present, which controls the future.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg